

HIGHLAND TOPS RETIREMENT LIST! Not only is Highland one of the best places to live in Indiana, it also happens to be one of the best places to retire. According to a 2019 SmartAsset survey, Highland ranked second in the state when it comes to low taxes, access to healthcare and recreation as well as its proximity to culture and entertainment.



GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MAY 2019

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET KICKS OFF ... 

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Highland Main Street is on its way to establishing the first Community Garden downtown this summer.

Located on an empty lot the town already owns, it is HMS member Renee Reinhart who has taken to heart the idea of nurturing a bevy of vegetable plants to help feed local families who cannot afford fresh produce.


Located just east of the Main Fire Station on Highway, the Community Garden will have all raised beds funded entirely through donations.

"Our goal during this first season is

to plant a dozen beds using starts we purchase from Zandstra and Scheeringa farms," Reinhart said.

"Produce will be available to those for whom food insecurity is a reality. This garden is a place where neighbors come together to help each other."

HMS President Dawn Diamantopolous said the garden will fill a social need in the community as well.


"We are working on educational opportunities for those who didn't grow up with backyard gardens," she said. "We are also working to host music and yoga in the garden this summer." 

TOWN ROAD PROJECTS GET BOOST FROM STATE GRANT

The Highland Town Council tapped into a state highway grant and came out with a big win for local road projects slated to be completed this year.

In exchange for a \$900,000 commitment to roads, the Indiana Department of Transportation – through its Community Crossings grant program – is contributing a dollar-for-dollar match.

The program was established as a partnership between INDOT and Hoosier communities "to invest in infrastructure projects that catalyze economic development, create jobs and strengthen local transportation networks."

"We continue to have road construction needs that outpace the availability of our local funds," Public Works Director John Bach said. "Doubling our money through this program helps us move ahead on roads in need of repair. Some of our most heavily traveled thoroughfares are slated for work this year." 

2019 ROAD PROJECTS

The matching grant will cover milling, resurfacing and pavement markings for the following streets:

- ◆ Highway Avenue, Jewett Street and 4th Street (downtown)
- ◆ LaPorte Street: Kennedy to Grace
- ◆ Cline Avenue: Ridge Road to 45th
- ◆ 45th Avenue: Forrest Drive to 5th
- ◆ Highway Avenue: Liable to Cline
- ◆ Spring Street: 45th to Martha
- ◆ 81st Street: Indy to Sycamore
- ◆ Ramblewood: Indy to Prairie



HOW YOU CAN HELP ...

DONATE A PLANT

You can help get the garden growing by donating the cost of one plant – or several – when you visit Scheeringa or Zandstra farms this spring and indicate you want to donate to the Community Garden.

TEND THE GARDEN

Volunteers are needed to plant, tend and harvest produce from May through October. Please check in on Facebook at Highland Main Street #GrowHighland for times and dates as well as donation forms.

CONTRACTING WORK?

During this season of remodeling and repairs, Building Commissioner Ken Mika is advising residents to hire only those contractors licensed to do work in Highland. The town's licensing process protects residents if work is done incorrectly or paid without completion.

INFO: Call the Building Department at (219) 972-7595 for a complete list of licensed contractors.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends at our monthly crime watch meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **MAY 8**

WHERE: HPD Community Room

INFO: Please call Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN - vice president
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

STEVEN WAGNER - president
swagner@highland.in.gov
(219) 718-3199



WARD 5

KONNIE KUIPER
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820



CLERK-TREASURER

MICHAEL GRIFFIN
mgriffin@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-1080

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:
The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Lithographic Communications
9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321

DEALERSHIP RAISING AWARENESS, MONEY FOR OUR HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Circle Buick GMC is pulling out all the stops to support Highland's finest.

The dealership is launching its first-ever "Thin Blue Line at Circle Buick GMC," a campaign that adorns every vehicle sold in May with a thin blue line displayed on the rear window and a donation to the Highland Police Department.

The thin blue line is universally recognized as a show of support for law enforcement and is displayed on homes and vehicles to show gratitude for the men and women in blue.

"This is our way of honoring the men and women of the Highland Police Department and furthering their mission to serve and protect," said Dustin Ervin, finance director at the family owned business. "We are excited to bring this visible show of support to Highland."

"We were very honored when we were approached about this fund-raiser, which will benefit our community policing programs," Cmdr. John Banasiak said. "This is another example of the support the HPD has always had from our great business community." 🌱

SUPPORTING LOCAL PROGRAMS

Cmdr. John Banasiak, Public Information Officer for the HPD, said funds raised by the dealership will be earmarked for:

- ★ **Crime Watch:** Learn about crime trends in and around Highland. Bi-monthly meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months. Meetings include guest speakers and officers addressing crime prevention in our town.
- ★ **Citizens' Police Academy:** This 10-week series is designed to educate the public on the Highland Police Department. Speakers include law enforcement, as well as presentations by a Lake County judge, fire chief, Highland Clerk-Treasurer, etc.
- ★ **Officer Friendly-School Resource Officer Program:** The Highland Police Department assigns an officer to work in the high school to enhance student safety and crime prevention. Officer Friendly, who visits the grade schools, provides safety tips and more to younger students.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED, HIGHLAND!

It's time to stand up and be counted.

The town's 2020 Complete Count Committee co-chairs – Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Erin Stojic and Redevelopment Commission Assistant Lance Ryskamp – are working on strategies to ensure the census includes all Highland residents.

Your participation benefits the town in a host of ways, determining:

- Funding of \$675 billion that pays for roads, schools and social programs.
- Political representation in Congress as well as state, county and local legislative bodies.
- Demographics that are used to attract companies looking to locate or relocate their business – along with the jobs that come with them – to Highland.

"Over the next year, you will be hearing more about what your business or organization can do to help," Ryskamp said. "We want to make sure we count every Highland resident." 🌱



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Join the 2020 Census Team and become a part of history! The U.S. Census Bureau has several job openings in Lake County.

From managers and supervisors to census takers and office clerks, there are job openings for all skill levels, including: Area Census Office Manager, Census Field Manager, Administration Manager, IT Manager, Recruiting Assistant, Field Supervisor, Office Operations Supervisor, census takers and office clerks.

Pay ranges from \$12 to \$14.50 an hour.

INFO: For more information or to apply, visit 2020Census.gov/jobs.



Summer Concert Series

Make a date to spend your summer Saturdays at Main Square Park, soaking up sultry evenings with a double dash of music thrown in for good measure.

Highland Parks and Recreation is moving its legendary concert series — which had been held on Wednesdays — to a Saturday spot to give more residents the opportunity to relax to a mix of tunes. Live entertainment includes everything from Motown and retro to classical and country with a bit of folk thrown in for good measure.

“Summer weeks can get overloaded,” Recreation Director Dave Byers said. “We’re changing it up this year to give more folks the option of coming out on the weekend to listen to fantastic music while enjoying our parks.” 🐦

ABOUT THE LINEUP

Grab a comfy lawn chair for the acoustical entertainment from 5 to 6 p.m. and live bands from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. on Saturdays, May 18 through August 24.

Here’s a look at our upcoming entertainment lineup:

MAY 18

Community Band from 7-9 p.m.
Classical/Modern

MAY 25

James Gedda
The Spaniels
Forever
Doo-Wop/R&B/Motown

JUNE 1

Jack Whittle
Liz Mandeville &
The Blue Points
Dance Blues

JUNE 8

Tom Lounges’
60th Birthday
w/ LeAnne Stutler
& Dyllynger
Classic Rock

CALLING ALL FOOD VENDORS!

We’re looking for food trucks or other self-contained food service vendors of ready-to-eat food, fresh fruits, vegetables, cheeses, coffees and more.

WEEKLY RATE: \$25 + \$7 electric

5 WEEKS: \$70 + \$16 electric

10 WEEKS: \$107 + \$27 electric

PLEASE NOTE: Cost includes 7% sales tax.

Tables, chairs, extension cords not included.

RESERVATIONS: Call (219) 838-0114.

HONORING FALLEN HEROES

Join Highland FOP Lodge 122 for a memorial service honoring those police officers who lost their lives serving our community.

WHEN: 9 a.m. **MAY 11**

WHERE: Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road

INFO: Please call FOP President Sgt. Randy Stewart at (219) 838-3184.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Republic Waste Services crews will collect trash and rubbish **MAY 14** generated by spring cleaning. **NOT INCLUDED:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at the Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

The community will honor veterans and fallen heroes during a Memorial Day tribute at Main Square Park.

WHEN: 10 a.m. **MAY 27**

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

INFO: highlandcce@gmail.com

HIGHLAND SHRED DAY

Time to clean out the clutter? Highland residents and businesses are invited to bring documents and forms to be securely shredded by Opportunity Enterprise’s SecureShred staff. Disposal is limited to five bags or five banker boxes.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **JUNE 1**

WHERE: Highland Public Works Facility, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5069.

PARADE APPLICATIONS

The Highland Council of Community Events is accepting applications through **JUNE 15** for this year’s Twilight Parade, which kicks off the annual Fourth of July festivities, as well as the annual Kiddie Parade. Apply online at highland.in.gov.

INFO: highlandcce@gmail.com

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for rare items, such as comic books, sports cards, Hot Wheels, autographs and other memorabilia? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will host the card show in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale, featuring household items, toys, books and more!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **MAY 18**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDORS FEES: \$33 per 10' x 10' interior space. Please note: Tables, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

10-WEEK SUMMER CAMP

Highland Parks and Recreation's summer camp engages kids — ages 5 to 12 — in games, crafts, songs, drama, sports activities and field trips. Register your child today!

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, **MAY 28** to **AUGUST 9**. Pre-camp hours are from 7 - 8:30 a.m. Mandatory parent meeting will be held at 6 p.m. **MAY 28** at Lincoln Center.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

CAMP FEES: \$105/\$130 weekly, \$25/\$30 daily

PRE-CAMP FEES: \$6/\$7 daily

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114



TOUR DE HIGHLAND-GRIFFITH

Enjoy a family-friendly bicycle ride through Highland and Griffith. Stop at Ridge Cyclery to get your bike checked. Texas Corral will provide lunch at the registration site to all participants. Friends and family may join riders for lunch for \$5. Bicycle raffle available.

WHEN: 11 a.m. Saturday, **JUNE 8**

WHERE: Check-in begins at 10:30 a.m. at Wicker Park Stands 1 and 2. The bike ride starts at 11 a.m. with four routes to choose from. Cookout will start after riders return.

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15 per rider before **JUNE 1** includes lunch and drawstring bag. \$5 for children age 12 and under.

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20 per rider **JUNE 2-8**. Giveaways while supplies last.

ONLINE REGISTRATION: signmeup.com/130519

QUESTIONS? Call (219) 923-3666 or email mary@highlandgriffithchamber.com.

SIX FLAGS TICKETS

Highland Parks has your ticket to summer fun: wild water slides and gravity-defying roller coasters at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Ill.

TICKETS: \$51.50 for general admission tickets, \$83.75 for a season pass, \$38.50 for special Highland Parks and Rec Days **JULY 13-21**.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

Highland's Annual Downtown CAR CRUISE

There will be scores of vintage cars lining Highway Avenue when Highland's annual salute to all that is cool about Ramblers, Chevelles and what's under the hood of some of the most sought after cars in the country.

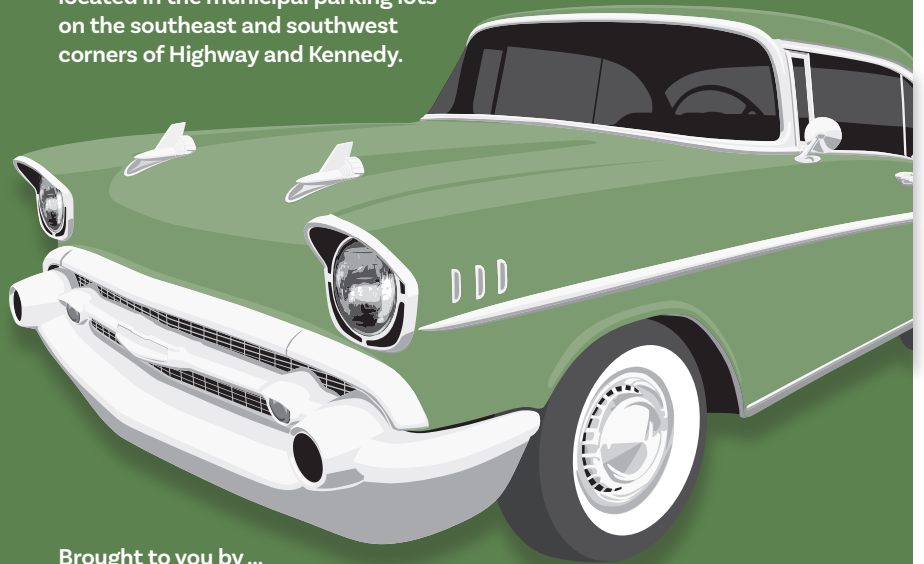
Stroll the downtown. While you're at it, enjoy the music of Northwest Indiana's own "Got Issues" and make it a point to stop in at the many shops along Highway and Jewett.

There is no registration form or fee for car cruise participants.

Event parking for the public will be located in the municipal parking lots on the southeast and southwest corners of Highway and Kennedy.

1-5 PM SATURDAY JUNE 1

INFO: Call (219) 972-7598 or email Lance Ryskamp at lryskamp@highland.in.gov.



Brought to you by ...
Highland Main Street Bureau
and the Highland Redevelopment Commission

SUMMER THEATRE AUDITIONS

The Highland Parks & Recreation Department's Performing Arts Group is looking for singers and dancers for this summer's production of "Willy Wonka" with performances scheduled in July and August. The first audition will focus on singing and cold reads; the second on dancing and callbacks. Please come prepared with 32 bars from a song selection of your choice. Monologues will be provided from the script.

WHEN: 6-9 p.m. **MAY 29** and **MAY 30**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

QUESTIONS? Please email Director Alexandria Shinkan at alexandria.shinkan@gmail.com

PLEASANT VIEW HISTORY

Join the Highland Historical Society for a special journey through time with Ken Leep, who will share his family's history with Pleasant View Dairy. More than 90 years after being founded along what would become Highland's bustling downtown, the Leep family continues to do what they do best — provide the best milk, butter, cottage cheese and sour cream to Indiana families. Refreshments will be served.

WHEN: 7 p.m. **MAY 23**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

QUESTIONS? Email Sue Douthett at highlandhistory@sbcglobal.net.